

Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service  
FY2007 – 1st Quarter Report

**AmeriCorps**

In August the Iowa Commission received supplemental federal funding and awarded an additional \$175,000 to Iowa AmeriCorps programs to restore cuts made to Iowa programs in June. In all \$1.8 million was award grant to eight AmeriCorps programs. The federal funds will leverage more than \$1.1 million in local resources and will generate more than 220,000 hours of service from the AmeriCorps members. In addition, it's anticipated that more than 5,000 additional volunteers will provide more than 100,000 hours of service in support of the AmeriCorps program. Iowa's eight AmeriCorps programs will provide volunteers to address community needs working with conservation, youth development, education, and meeting unmet human needs. Programs that received funding are headquartered in Ames, Ankeny, Des Moines (3), Dubuque, Spencer, and Toddville; however, five of the projects are statewide, two are regional and one is community-based. Over the past five years, every AmeriCorps federal dollar has leveraged \$2.26 in local resources, volunteer hours and education awards spent in Iowa.

**Iowa's Promise**

An Iowa's Promise Program Coordinator was hired July 1, 2006. Responsibilities include representing Iowa to America's Promise, Iowa's Promise's national partner and working closely with Iowa communities to forward their Promise efforts.

In the first quarter, two Iowa communities-Dubuque County and Dickinson County-were designated Communities of Promise and a third community-Buena Vista County-has applied to become a designated Community of Promise.

The first Iowa's Promise Information ICN session was held state-wide, more than 20 sites participated with over 90 participants. Information regarding Iowa's Promise and the Iowa Collaboration for Youth Development was disseminated to community leaders.

Additionally, the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service will host three AmeriCorps VISTA members to forward the work of the Iowa Mentoring Partnership, the Iowa Afterschool Alliance and to work on Iowa's Promise marketing and programming.

Iowa was also the recipient of a \$20,000 grant from America's Promise. The grant will be used to fund the promotion of Iowa's Promise and the Iowa's Promise Partnership Council, Iowa's vehicle for bringing a stronger connection between the public and private sectors for Iowa's children and youth. This grant will also help fund a Youth Civic Engagement Policy Forum, and a Leadership meeting to ensure that Iowa's children and youth are a policy priority in Iowa.

**State Strategic Plan for Volunteerism**

As directed by E.O.48 & 2005 Iowa Acts H.F.478 the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service conducted numerous meetings around the state with volunteer based programs and partners in developing the "2007-2010 Iowa Blueprint for Volunteer Service". Four strategic priorities for volunteer service were identified – 1. Mobilizing More Volunteers 2.Engaging Students in Communities 3. Ensuring a Brighter Future for Iowa's Youth 4. Harnessing the Experience of Baby Boomers. The full plan is attached.